

Please add the following claims:

43. (New) A method to inhibit the growth and development of the bacterium of claim 1, which method comprises contacting said bacterium with a composition which comprises propionic acid or a derivative thereof.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said composition comprises a derivative of propionic acid which is 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-propionic acid.

45. (New) A method to inhibit biofilm production by the bacterium of claim 1, which method comprises contacting said bacterium with a composition which comprises propionic acid or a derivative thereof.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein said composition comprises a derivative of propionic acid which is 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-propionic acid.

47. (New) A method to inhibit the growth and development of a mucoid organism, which method comprises contacting said organism with a composition which comprises propionic acid or a derivative thereof.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said composition comprises a derivative of propionic acid which is 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-propionic acid.

49. (New) A method to inhibit biofilm production by a mucoid organism, which method comprises contacting said organism with a composition which comprises propionic acid or a derivative thereof.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition comprises a derivative of propionic acid which is 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-propionic acid.